**MARCH TOWN COUNCIL.**

Minutes of the Meeting of March Town Council held on 4th January 2016 in The Skoulding Suite at March Town Hall commencing at 7.15pm.

**Present** Councillor RF Skoulding Town Mayor

AR Donnelly Deputy Town Mayor

 Councillors MEC Field J French

 ML George JW Gowing

 CC Owen A Pugh

 MW Purser

 FDC Representative Cllr Mark Buckton

 Town Clerk C Lemmon

 Assistant Town Clerk GSD Wilkinson

 Public One

**145 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors Court, K French and Harris.

**146 Tourism Consultation**

Fenland District Councillor Mark Buckton gave a presentation regarding the Cambridgeshire Fens Tourism Partnership in relation to its aims and its action plan for the forthcoming three months. All this detail is attached as Appendix A.

A discussion session ensued whereby opinions were exchanged as to how this Partnership should develop during 2016 / 2017 and how its ideas could best be promoted to the general public.

Councillor Buckton requested that he be allowed to return to March Town Council in March or April 2016 to provide a progress report.

Following his presentation, Councillor Buckton was thanked by the Mayor and left the meeting at 7.45pm.

**147 Police Update**

Since no police were in attendance, a report had been circulated to all Councillors earlier in the day.

**148 Planning Applications**

Because of his position on the Fenland District Council Planning and Development Committee and his commitment to Paragraph 28 of the Fenland District Council Code of Conduct, Councillor Owen declared a personal interest and took no part in the discussions relating to planning matters.

It was also noted that due to their involvement in the building industry, Councillors Purser and Skoulding would not take part in any discussions relating to planning issues.

Councillors Owen, Purser and Skoulding left the debating table for the entirety of this agenda item.

It was agreed that three additional planning applications would be discussed.

Councillor J French took the Chair for this one agenda item only.

*Application Name and address of applicant, details of application,*

*Number and recommendation of March Town Council*

F/YR15/1103/F Mr R Purser, 11 Ravenhill Drive, March.

Conversion of garage to living accommodation in association with flat above.

1 Chapel Street, March.

Received: 23 December 2015.

Reply By: 11 January 2016.

Since he is the son of the applicant, Councillor Purser also declared a prejudicial interest in relation to this application.

Recommend approval.

F/YR15/1104/F Mr G Martin and Ms K Fletcher, 7 Badgeney Road, March.

Erection of a single-storey rear extension involving demolition of existing conservatory and insertion of roof lights to enable loft conversion to existing dwelling.

S/a.

Received: 23 December 2015.

Reply By: 11 January 2016.

Recommend approval.

F/YR15/1106/F Mr K and Mrs M Ellis, Rosedene, Barnards Place, Long Clowson, Melton Mobray, Leics.

Erection of a 2-storey 3-bed dwelling with detached double garage involving demolition of existing garage.

Land South Of 443 Wisbech Road, Westry, March.

Received: 16 December 2015.

Reply By: 4 January 2016.

Recommend approval.

F/YR15/1110/O Mr & Mrs B James, c//o agent.

Erection of 3 dwellings involving demolition of existing buildings.

Land West Of 85 Wimblington Road.

Received: 29 December 2015.

Reply By: 12 January 2016.

Recommend approval.

F/YR15/1112/F Mr M Anthony, 43 West End, March.

Conversion of existing outbuilding to form part single-storey 1-bed dwelling with integral garage (amendment to F/YR13/0894/F), conversion of existing dwelling to 2 x 2-storey 2-bed and 3-bed dwellings and alterations to the mooring to include erection of a summer house, creation of a covered area and raising the roof of the existing shed.

S/a.

Received: 29 December 2015.

Reply By: 11 January 2016.

Recommend approval.

F/YR15/1115/F Mr R Moore, Richard Moore Engineering, Three Acres Business Park, Railway Junction South, Creek Road, March.

Erection of a single-storey side extension to existing dwelling.

The Bungalow, Three Acres, Railway Junction South, Creek Road, March.

Received: 21 December 2015.

Reply By: 11 January 2016.

Recommend approval.

F/YR15/1117/F Mr N Harradine, C/o 130 Upwell Road, March.

Erection of a single-storey 3-bed dwelling involving demolition of existing conservatory, garage and outbuilding.

Land East Of 114 Upwell Road, March.

Received: 29 December 2015.

Reply By: 13 January 2016.

Recommend approval.

F/YR15/1126/F Mr J Gull, 101 Elwyn Road, March.

Erection of a single-storey rear extension involving the partial demolition of existing extension to enable loft conversion to existing dwelling.

68 Elm Road, March.

Received: 4 January 2016.

Reply By: 20 January 2016.

Recommend approval.

F/YR15/1128/F Mr & Mrs Mair, Linwood Farm, Linwood Lane, March.

Erection of a single-storey farm office building, siting of mobile weighbridge and oil tank.

Land North West Of Linwood Farm, Linwood Lane, March.

Received: 4 January 2016.

Reply By: 20 January 2016.

Recommend approval.

F/YR15/1122/F Mr & Mrs Kolleng, 28 Upwell Road, March.

Erection of a 2-storey side extension to existing dwelling involving demolition of existing side extension.

S/a.

Received: 4 January 2016.

Reply By: 13 January 2016.

Recommend approval.

**149 Public Participation**

Since nobody had given the requisite notice to the Clerk to enable them to address the meeting, no public participation took place.

**150 Minutes of Meetings**

The following Minutes were agreed and signed by the Mayor:

Main Council Meeting of 7th December 2015.

Main Council Meeting of 21st December 2015.

**151 Matters Arising**

Re Main Council Meeting of 7th December 2015:

Minute 134 / 120 / 102: The Clerk reported that he had e-mailed Graham Nourse on 8th December 2015 to ascertain whether any further progress had been made regarding the former “Mike Ogden Office”. A response received on 9th December 2015 stated that he would speak to Officers and get back to us as soon as possible.

 Since Graham Nourse has now left the employment of Fenland District Council, it was agreed that the new Head of Planning should be e-mailed (via Rob Bridge) for an update.

Minute 134 / 120 / 106 / 87 / 73 / 59 / General: Balfour Beatty were e-mailed on 8th December 2015 to inform them that the lights illuminating Britannia were not working. It was noted that repairs had since been completed.

Minute 134 / 120 / 106 / 87 / 73 / 64: We are still awaiting budget figures from Matt Pickering in respect of the Wimblington Road replacement streetlights. A further reminder was forwarded on 8th December 2015.

 A response received the same day stated that a price was hoped for at some time during January 2016.

Re Main Council Meeting of 21st December 2015:

Minute 143: Derek McKenzie was notified on 22nd December 2015 that March Town Council had approved the final draft policies for the March Neighbourhood Plan.

Minute 144: Councillor John Clark was emailed on 22nd December 2015 with March Town Council’s opposition to pay-parking and its concerns regarding the Comprehensive Spending Review. An acknowledgement was received on 1st January 2016.

**152 Affirmation of 2016 / 2017 Budget**

The Clerk confirmed all details regarding the proposed budget and precept documents for 2016 / 2017.

The figures presented were confirmed as follows:

Budget figure £265,770.

Total funding required £282,202.

Support Grant payable by FDC £ 15,202.

Net Council Tax Base 6,318.

Balance obtained by precept £267,000.

Following a short discussion, the above figures were all unanimously ratified.

Full details relating to the budgets and precept are attached as appendices 1, 2 and 3.

**153 Her Majesty the Queen – Birthday Celebrations**

Councillors discussed the previously circulated e-mail which highlighted that beacons were due to be lit across the country on 21st April 2016 to celebrate the Queen’s 90th birthday.

Following these discussions, it was agreed that:

1. Councillor J French should establish and Chair a Committee to determine the most appropriate form of celebration.
2. Councillor J French should report back to the 1st February 2016 Main Council Meeting to present the recommendations of her Committee for further discussion.

**154 Flooding Update**

Trevor Watson’s update was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting, and its contents were noted.

**155 Cambridgeshire County Council Update**

It was noted that all information received from Cambridgeshire County Council had been circulated to Councillors by e-mail as and when received.

**156 Fenland District Council Update**

Councillor Owen had nothing to report.

**157 Schedule of Accounts**

The Schedule of Accounts, as circulated, was agreed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.25pm

Councillor RF Skoulding ……………………………………….. 1st February 2016.

Mayor of March.